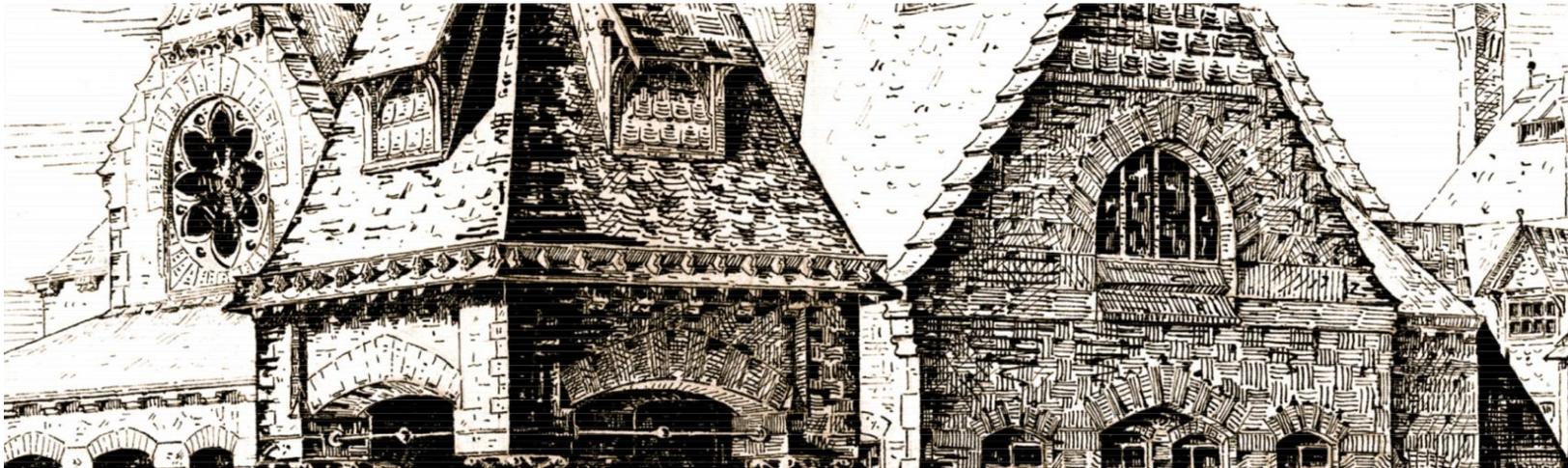


The Beacon

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia

December 2017



December Worship Services Theme: Possibility

In Search of SJWs

Sunday, December 3, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: **Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt (with Rev. Abbey Tennis)**

At this highly charged political moment, there are lots of insults being tossed about, but none so confusing as “SJW.” What does it mean, why is it meant as an insult, and why should we, as progressive religious people, welcome it with open arms?

The Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt serves as President of the Unitarian Universalist and Multireligious seminary, Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. Prior to serving Starr King, Rev. Bray McNatt was the Senior Minister of The Fourth Universalist Society in Manhattan following a long career as a writer, journalist, and activist. Rev. Bray McNatt is a former editor of the New York Times Book Review, a former commentator on MSNBC, a contributing editor to UU World, and author of three books. As minister of Fourth Universalist, Rev. Bray McNatt was the convener of OccupyFaithNYC, and a co-convener of Moral Monday NYC, a multi-faith social justice organizations. Among her many other leadership roles within Unitarian Universalism, Rev. Bray McNatt also helped to found the Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry, created to provide culturally sensitive liberal religious responses to mass disaster and other significant trauma.

**Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.*

**Kid's Music Workshop, a 30-minute music class hosted by our music program and our CRE program, will begin after service in the CRE classroom upstairs.*

A Shrine to Meaning

Sunday, December 10, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: **Rev. Abbey Tennis**

In this season of Advent, Christians around the world are engaged in a time of spiritual preparation. How can we prepare our lives to be places where our time, energy, and attention are devoted to that which is most meaningful to us? In the hectic consumerism of the American holiday season, and the frightening state of American politics, how can we find spiritual grounding?

**CRE will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after “A Time for All Ages.”*

Running Toward, Running Away, Running After

Sunday, December 17, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: **Rev. Abbey Tennis**

When conflict or crises hit, each of us chooses how to respond. Sometimes we sacrifice our own wellbeing to help others, sometimes we remove

ourselves for survival's sake, and sometimes we get aggressive and fight. How do we choose? What do our choices mean for our lives, our loved ones, and the world?

**CRE will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.*

**First Church Voices will not meet this week. Please join us all for the Holiday Fest after service.*

Christmas Eve - Lessons and Carols

****There will be no regular service this morning.**

Instead, we will gather in the evening.

Sunday, December 24, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

Led by: Rev. Abbey Tennis

Join us for our annual candlelit service to sing Christmas carols, share the ancient story of possibility and hope arising from the unexpected, and reflect on the meaning of Christmas in our lives and in the world. **The plate collection during this service will be for the church's pastoral care fund.**

Special note: This service is intergenerational and we warmly welcome your children to join us! Childcare is also available.

For the reception:

Contact: MK Dean, communications@philauu.org

Bring your favorite ready-to-serve winter treat or beverage (uncorked/screw-top wine, soda, cider) to the Parish Room before the service. Be sure to label anything that contains nuts. If you are available to help receive and set up beforehand, or clean up afterward, please let us know.

Three Selves: A Unitarian Trinity

Sunday, December 31, 11:00am, Sanctuary

Led by: Peregrine Morkal-Williams - Lay Preacher

Some pagans consider a person to have three "Selves," ranging from the conscious mind to the deep unconscious. Often we go about our lives aware only of our conscious minds, neglecting our unnameable aspects. How do we connect all of our

Selves, conscious and subconscious, thinking and dreaming and praying, to find unity? What new possibilities exist when we live into our wholeness?

**CRE will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after "A Time for All Ages."*

Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Contact Rev. Abbey at minister@philauu.org

First Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Sanctuary
Join us for our monthly contemplative evening worship service, a time to rest from the demands of the world and immerse ourselves in the beauty of singing meditation and a candlelit Sanctuary. Feel free to join us at 6:00 PM with your voice or an instrument for a drop-in musical rehearsal prior to the service, or to help set up.



News & Notes

Stewardship Notes

It is the season of gratitude and Rev Abbey, Norman Fouhy and the Board of Trustees are incredibly grateful for the generosity of this Congregation. If you have dropped money in the weekly Sunday Service plate collection and/or are honoring the 2017-18 pledge you made, THANK YOU. There is no way to personally thank those who have generously contributed by putting money in the weekly plate collection but please know that your gifts are truly appreciated. For those who made an identifiable 2017-18 pledge resulting in a very successful \$200,000 Stewardship Campaign, we lift your names in gratitude:

Ann Adams
Harvey Anderson
Erin Bailey
Eva Baker
Kim Balaschak
Amanda and Casey Baner-Darnley
Joan Bauer
Ginny Beier
Phyllis Belk

Kathy Bell
Kevin Birley
Zemoria Brandon
Stacey and Brian Brecher
Virginia Brown
Ken and Bill Caldwell
Charity Calloway
Christine Carlson & John Lehman
Ennis Carter

Janet Cary
Andrew Chupa
Eve and Paul Cohen
Susan and David Cooper
Martha Copithorne
Ann Marie Corradetti
Amanda & Mary Cate Cox
Carl Denlinger
J.P. Donohue & Sarah Smith

Liam Dougherty
Hunter Dudkiewicz
Sharon and Pat Egan
Janet Elfring
Jennifer and Ken Farrall
Jon and Brian Fishbone
Leroy Forney
Craig Freden
Jennifer Frericks
Diane and Richard Frey
Gabriella Frisone
Sue Gambardello
Holly Genovese
Laura Gibson
David Giles
Peg Gillies
George Girman
Michaela Goff
Luana Goodwin
Ed Greenlee
Michael Greer
Helen & Bill Groft
Beth Gross
Krista Guerrieri
Jan Guidotti
Lois Hamerman
Finy Hansen
Caitlin Hier
Barbara Higgins
Amy Hillier
Jennifer and Brian Hurley
Jennifer Jachym
Wendy and Gary Jastrzab
Kitty Jauregui
Michael Johnson
Leonard Johnson
Sasi Judd
Ruth Kalinka
Brooke Kelly
Patty Kelly
Alison Kelly
Mary Kirk
Olga Kofman

Bethany Korp
Leland Kowalski
Myra and Dave Kurkowski
Levana & Anthony Layendecker
James Lewis
Jo Lin
David Loiter
Kai Lovell
Ellen Malven
Murielle and Scott McCarthy
Marisa McClellan
Priscilla McDougal
Jennifer Miescke
Kathy Miller
Peregrine Morkal-Williams
Pauline Mucha
Angela Nagle
Nisha Nayak
Ted Newill
Karyn and David O'Connor
Stephen Oliver
Toni O'Neil
Rebecca Ortenberg
Julie and Eric Orts
Camille Pane
Erika Parker
Nancy and Rick Pasquier
Larry Peers
Gordon Pessano
Carol and Mark Peterson
Bill Petricone
Beth Ralston
Hannah Richter
Suzanne Riesman
Noelia Rivera-Calderon
Violette Rivera-Carb
Anthony Robinson
Arcenia Rosal
Lynn Rubin
Marilyn and Val Sandberg
Christy and Martin Santoro
Karen Schermerhorn & Evan

Seymour
Lisa Schilansky
David and Zinat Schneck
Katherine Schneider
Debby Schultz
Monique Scott
Kathleen Sheehy
Phebe and George Shinn
Jennifer Shryock
Connie Simon
Anne Slater
Heather Speirs
Portia Sperr
Bob Sprafkin
Jackie Stewart
Mike Stratoti
Marge Strothers
Hal Tarr
Rev. Abbey Tennis
Karin Tetlow
Lora Thornburg
Laura and Fred Tipson
Sharon and Mike Tomalin
Claire and Paul Toy
Sandy Triem
Katherine Uraneck
Kathryn and Justin Vadell
Annemarie Vaeni
Breanne Ward
Amber and Doug Watts
Rose and Brian Weingartner
Molly Weisberg
Joan and Dane Wells
Myndi Wexler
Becky White
Dan Widyono
Dean Wilson
Joy Wiltenburg & Rick Womer
Caroline Winschel
Karen Wolfe
Suanne Wright



Welcome Newcomers!

WELCOME to the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia! We are an intentionally diverse religious community inspired by our historic urban ministry: we seek to be guided by the wisdom and experience of people of all genders, theologies, ages, abilities, colors, classes, and sexual orientations. We aim “to lead meaningful lives, to love one another without prejudice, and to build a just and sustainable world.” If this congregation has become a religious home for you, we encourage you to become a member. We invite you to join us as we move into our third century as a center of liberal religious thought and action in Philadelphia.

Let's Be in Touch!

Following each Sunday Service, we invite newcomers to join us during the Coffee Hour in our Parish Room for refreshments and conversation. While there, please fill out a Visitors' Form so we can keep in touch.

Membership

Have you been attending services regularly and find yourself in sympathy with the Principles of Unitarian Universalism and the goals of this congregation?

- ❖ Do you feel "at home" here with this group of people and wish to deepen your connections to them?
- ❖ Do you want to keep growing spiritually and intellectually—expanding your heart and mind?
- ❖ Would you like to find ways to offer service to the larger community and work to make the world a better place?

If you respond positively to these questions, we invite you to consider joining as a Member! First Unitarian Universalist Church is happy to have visitors and friends as part of our community, but our congregation really comes alive through the commitment of our Members.

Please contact the Membership Ministry Team membership@philauu.org for more information!

Membership

membership@philauu.org

To become a member of the First Unitarian Church, you must be 18 years of age and have attended one of our UU & You orientation sessions, or met with the minister in a scheduled appointment or belonged to a UU church elsewhere. Members are expected to take part in our congregational activities and to make a financial pledge according to their means.

UU & You

Sunday, December 3, following Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, January 7, following Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, February 4, following Worship, Sanctuary

membership@philauu.org

Come to an informal informational gathering especially designed for those who want to know more about us and our liberal religious movement! This roughly hour-long get-together offers attendees an opportunity to get to know one another and this congregation better, and includes a quick tour of Unitarian Universalist history and the story of this congregation.

Pathways to Membership at First Unitarian Church

Thursday, January 11, 6pm-8pm, Parish Room

Childcare provided!

minister@philauu.org

Have you attended a UU & You meeting and are considering joining First Unitarian Church? Come join us for a more in-depth "Pathways" class! We will get to know other newcomers, discuss our spiritual paths and the meaning of membership, and learn more about the history and vision of this congregation and faith. Contact Rev. Abbey with any questions!

New Member Welcoming Ceremony

Sunday, December 17, during the worship service

Have you been considering membership at First Unitarian Church? If you have attended a UU & You and Pathways to Membership meeting, and have made your intention known to Rev. Abbey, you can be formally recognized as a new member of our congregation during this ceremony. More information is available through our Membership Ministry Team and Rev. Abbey.

Upcoming Events & Programs

Board Meeting Schedule

In all cases, meetings will begin at 6:30 PM at the church

- ❖ December 20, 2017
- ❖ January 17, 2018
- ❖ February 21, 2018

Choir Rehearsal

Contact John B Hedges at musicdirector@philaun.org

- ❖ **First Unitarian Choir** (main adult choir):
Thursdays 7:00-9:00 & Sundays at 9:45
- ❖ **First Church Voices** (intergenerational choir - all ages and levels): 3rd Sunday of each month 12:30-1:30
- ❖ **Kid's Music Workshop** - a 30-minute music lesson for children of all ages: 1st Sunday of each month, 12:30-1, CRE Classroom

Women's Book Club

Ginny Beier (215-309-2636) or vhbeier@hep.upenn.edu

Open to all women to join in discussion! We meet in members' homes on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM for hospitality and 8:00 PM for facilitated discussion. **RSVP to the hostess!**

- ❖ Dec. 4 - The Undoing Project: a Friendship That Changed Our Minds by Michael Lewis.
Facilitated by Diane Rukavina in the home of Christine Carlson.
christine.carlson333@gmail.com.
- ❖ Jan. 8 - Annual Planning Meeting. Please bring 1 or 2 books that you highly recommend that are available in paperback or in the Free Library. We will vote and choose our selections for the year and possibly the facilitators and hostesses. We will also decide where to have our Annual Dinner in February.

Our Annual Dinner will not be held in December because our hostess, Kim Balaschak, is moving to Arizona. We miss her and wish her well! Our sharing a meal is still important to us. We will decide how to celebrate our group at our January planning meeting. Suggested sites and costs of small, friendly restaurants can be sent to Ginny in advance.

Architectural Tours of First Church

Fourth Sundays of every Month

Sunday, December 31, following services, Sanctuary

Are you curious about the history of our First Unitarian Church Building? Join an informal tour designed to give you an understanding of the architecture and decoration of the church, designed in 1883 by Frank Furness. This 30-45 minute guided tour takes you to all parts of our great historic building. All are welcome. Meet tour guide Richard Frey or Dane Wells after the Sunday service, at the bust of Joseph Priestley, on the west wall near the organ.

Holiday Fest

The winds will be blowing, strings singing, guitars and ukes strumming at our HOLIDAY FEST on Sunday, December 17, beginning at the end of service. With our children front and center, we will all join in celebrating the joy of the season.

In addition to the frolic, there will be BRUNCH selections (baked eggs and wraps) for sale, also BAKED GOODS and RE-GIFTING to consider for yourself or those on your Christmas list. You can make glittery BAUBLES for your tree, indulge yourself in a bit of FACE-PAINTING or capture a CARICATURE.

There will be a RAFFLE for those who like to take a chance on winning a bundle. And there will be a silent auction of specialty baskets, also suitable for gifts.

IN PREPARATION, you can bring in items that you may have bought and never given, received and never used or made as gifts to be sold for benefit of the church on Sunday, December 3 and 10. There will be a table for their collection at Coffee Hour on those days.

AND/OR you can create a basket of treats that would capture someone's imagination and draw a bid in the silent auction.

OR you can look up your favorite recipes for cakes, cookies, candies, etc. and prepare some as gifts for the season.

If you do not want to assemble a basket or bake up a goody on your own, you can join a crew of elves in Griffin Hall and the kitchen on Saturday, December 16 between 1:00 and 5:00 to work together. We will also be making preparations for the brunch at that time.

Order Your Brunch

Order your brunch in advance to assure that your selection is available. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Holiday Fest table in the Parish Room during Coffee Hour December 3 and December 10.

Donate A Gift Basket this Holiday Season!

Collection: Email your intent to donate by December 10

Holiday festivities: Sunday, December 17

Contact [Heather Speirs](#) or [MK Dean](#)

As part of our Holiday fundraising effort, we'd like to offer at least 6-8 arranged and wrapped gift baskets, to be bid on in a Silent Auction before and after church on December 17th.

Please make, or purchase, a themed gift basket to be auctioned! Some ideas for the baskets include skin care products; coffees and pastries; teas, teapot, mugs, and cookies; or a salami platter/board with assorted meats and cheeses plus a bottle or two of wine. Or come up with your own themed basket! Picnic, romantic, holiday, artists, kids, pets - the possibilities are endless! Be creative!

We're hoping to sell these for \$75 or more. If you're planning on making or bringing a gift basket to be auctioned, please let us know by December 10!

Holiday Regifting

Collection: Sundays November 26 and December 3

Holiday festivities: Sunday, December 17

Contact [Luana Goodwin](#) luanagoodwin@gmail.com

Last year we realized that many of us have gifts that we received or which we purchased with the intention to give to others, but that these gifts have instead languished, unappreciated and unused. We collected these - still desirable! - gifts and offered them for resale, with proceeds benefitting the church.

After last year's success, we are making this an annual event! We will be collecting items suitable for gifts on Sundays, November 26 and December 3. They will then be made available for sale at the church holiday festivity on Saturday, December 9.

So go through your closet and drawers and find those lovely, lingering items that you would like to pass along. They could be jewelry, gloves, scarves, craft items, kitchen tools, etc. Handmade items are also welcome. Do not restrict your search! We look forward to receiving your finds and converting them into a resource for the church.



Ministry Teams

Children's Religious Education

Director of Religious Education, Shantala Thompson
DRE@pbilauu.org

This year, in an effort to intentionally build community across generations, and meaningful curricula, Children's Religious Education (CRE) will explore the same (or similar) monthly themes as the larger congregation.

December Curriculum:

During the month of December, CRE will focus on the meaning behind various winter holidays. CRE will explore themes of compassion, generosity, love and joy, and affirm the seven Unitarian principles.

Volunteers Needed for Children's Religious Education Program

Children's Religious Education is looking for volunteers to work with our Sunday School program! The time commitment is one Sunday per month, approximately 10:45 am – 12:30 pm. We ask that volunteers have been official members of the congregation for at least one year, and pass background checks and clearances, which will be paid for by the church.

Our Schedule

December 3, 2017

Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.

**Kid's Music Workshop, a 30-minute music class hosted by our music program and our CRE program, will begin after service in the CRE classroom upstairs.*

December 10, 2017

CRE will start in the main sanctuary. Children are invited upstairs to CRE after "A Time for All Ages."

December 17, 2017

CRE will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.

Join us for the Holiday Fest after service! (See p5-6)

December 24, 2017, 11am

There will not be a morning service on Christmas Eve.

December 24, 2017, 6:30pm

Please join us for an intergenerational Lessons and Carols service in the sanctuary! Reception to follow.

December 31, 2017

*Children's Religious Education (CRE) will start in the Joseph Priestley Chapel, located directly in front of the side entrance.

Adult Spiritual Development

Guided Meditation

Ed Greenlee at edwin.greenlee@gmail.com

Ed Greenlee leads guided meditation before worship on the 3rd Sunday of every month! Guided meditation meets from 10:15-10:45 in the chapel!

- ❖ December 17, 2017
- ❖ January 21st, 2018
- ❖ February 18, 2018
- ❖ March 18, 2018
- ❖ April 15, 2018
- ❖ May 29, 2018
- ❖ June 17, 2018

The 2017-18 UUA Common Read

[Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want](#)

Authors: Frances Moore Lappe, Adam Eichen

Adult Spiritual Development will be offering a session discussing the 2017-18 UUA Common Read in February, as well as more events around this book! Stay tuned for more information!

This is an optimistic book for Americans who are asking, in the wake of Trump's victory, what do we do now? The answer: We need to organize and fight to protect and expand our democracy.

Social Justice Ministries Community Tutoring Opportunity

Sharon Tomalin (215-735-5047) or stomalin@att.net

This school year is the eighth year of our tutoring project at the Andrew Jackson elementary school at 12th and Federal Streets. No experience needed! Call if you're interested in volunteering or if you'd like to be mentored through the process of establishing a similar project in another school.

Winter Shelter

Ginny Beier (215-309-2636) or vbbeier@hep.upenn.edu

Winter Shelter Season has Arrived! First Unitarian will continue our participation with this Neighborhood project on the 3rd Friday of every month until May. Please sign up at the back of the church and see the coordinator, Ginny Beier at Coffee Hour to find out how. A team of volunteers is needed with varying financial and culinary assets to produce a home-cooked meal for 22 men and to serve and join them from 6-8P.M. No criminal registration is needed this year but volunteers must be 18 years of age.

Membership Ministry Team

Email membership@philauu.org to sign up!

Hospitality & Light Treats Needed!

Please bring cookies or some other light dessert for our Coffee Hour. Good coffee and something sweet encourages friendly conversation--and provides a special welcome for visitors.

Flowers

Celebrate, Honor and Beautify

www.philauu.org/flowers

Donating flowers is a great way to honor a loved one or celebrate a momentous occasion while simultaneously adding the beauty and color of flowers to our church services. When the service is finished, take the flowers home with you to enjoy. You may also include a special message about the person you're honoring or event you're celebrating which will be printed in the order of service and read during the sharing of joys and concerns. We're accepting flower reservations for the 2017-2018 church year. The donation is \$30.00. **If interested, please visit www.philauu.org/flowers**

THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

2125 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Church Office 215-563-3980 Fax 215-563-4209
Office Hours 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
www.philauu.org • info@philauu.org



DATED MATERIAL --- ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Minister

Rev. Abbey Tennis Minister

Executive Staff

Norman Fouhy Business Administrator
Matt Miceli Building Superintendent

Program Staff

MK Dean Communications Director
Shantala Thompson Director of Religious Education
John B Hedges Music Director

Sextons

Jonathan Blount, Jim Devenney, Hye-Sung Gehring

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Mike Tomalin
